



Office of Mayor Miro Weinberger

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 23, 2013

Contact: Mike Kanarick
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Mayor Miro Weinberger and City Councilor Max Tracy Statements in Response to Unanimous Passage of Ordinance Requiring Use of Recycling Toters

Mayor Miro Weinberger

"We are fortunate in Burlington to run a robust, effective recycling program that allows our community to work toward a cleaner, greener City. Yet, we have significant challenges keeping our overflowing and wind-blown recyclables in the small, blue bins. Now, we will launch phase one of our larger, covered recycle toters initiative, keeping our trash in the toters, off our streets, and out of the landfill. I offer thanks for the collaboration to Councilor Max Tracy and to our Code Enforcement and Department of Public Works teams."

City Councilor Max Tracy

"Like many members of the Burlington community, I too know there's a better way to recycle than to have our recyclables getting blown all over our neighborhoods on windy days. By phasing in larger, covered recycling toters at all rental properties over the next year, we will achieve the dual goals of keeping our neighborhoods cleaner and ensuring that renters have enough space to keep recyclables out of the landfill."

Attached to this email are the following documents:

- *February 8, 2013 Memo from Code Enforcement Director Bill Ward and former Department of Public Works Director Steve Goodkind to Mayor Miro Weinberger*
- *April 25, 2013 Memo from Mayor Miro Weinberger to the City Council*
- *Recycle Toters Resolution Passed at July 15, 2013 City Council Meeting*
- *Copy of Proposed revised ordinance*

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**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE &
BURLINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

645A Pine St, PO Box 849
Burlington, VT 05402-0849
VOICE (802) 863-0442

To: Mayor Weinberger
From: Bill Ward and Steve Goodkind
Date: 2-8-13
Subject: Recycling toter recommendation

Problem statement

There are many neighborhoods that have regular disorder visible in the form of windblown litter from poorly organized recyclable materials. The Residential High Density Zoning district has the highest level of recycling disorder followed by the area immediately surrounding that district. The common theme in these neighborhoods is multiple rental units needing greater capacity for recycling than the standard 15 gallon uncovered recycle bins. The result is often a chaotic pile of materials placed in and around the uncovered bins. Even without poor weather conditions to cause the materials to scatter, the general appearance of these areas is not clean and sanitary as the Burlington City ordinance Section 18-111 requires.



Challenges or questions for expanding recycling toter use

The City of Burlington has approximately 200 toters in stock. Additional toters will be required and may not all be for sale at the reduced rate. We estimate that 4-5000 toters may be needed to meet this requirement. If we want to take advantage of a CSDW subsidy, we may have to spread our purchase out over several years.

The logistics of purchasing, storing and assembling the toters will require staff and storage space beyond our current capabilities. Toters come in four parts, requiring work to assemble the lid and wheels on each unit and then to handle the sales transaction. It will not be possible to handle large scale sales in a short period of time.

Some haulers may be willing to provide recycling totes for their customers. This would reduce the number of totes the City would have to deal with.

It may be possible to partner with CSWD to use their drop off center on Pine Street as a location to store totes and to sell them directly to Burlington residents.

Recommendation

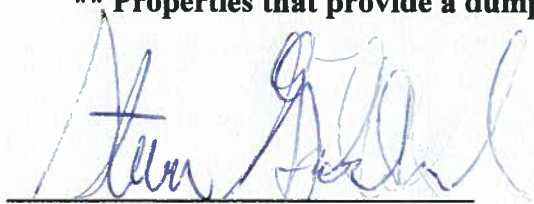
The Department of Public Works is charged with the collection and organization of the recycling program in Burlington. The Code Enforcement office is responsible for enforcement of the Minimum Housing requirements in chapter 18 of Burlington City Ordinances. The two departments believe that requiring owners of rental properties (other than single family) in the city to provide wheeled covered recycling totes of a minimum of 65 Gallons of capacity for every three units (or portion thereof) will greatly reduce the level of disorder associated with these properties. The benefits of covered totes include greater tenant satisfaction, less litter in neighborhoods and ease of use for City Recycling crews.

We recommend the City Council seek public input and hold committee hearings on our recommendation that all rental units with 3 or more units be required to purchase or contract to have large covered recycling totes based on the following schedule:

<u>Number of Units</u>	<u>Deadline to comply*</u>	<u>Number of properties/Aprox. # of totes required**</u>
10 or more units	By July 1, 2013	95/285
6 or More units	By September 1, 2013	214/642
3 or More units	By July 1, 2014	623/1246

***dates are shown for discussion purposes only**

**** Properties that provide a dumpster for recycling would be exempt**



Steve Goodkind
Director of Public Works



Bill Ward
Director of Code Enforcement



Office of Mayor Miro Weinberger

MEMORANDUM

To: City Councilors
From: Mayor Miro Weinberger
Date: April 25, 2013
Re: Recycling Toters Resolution

While we are fortunate in Burlington to run a robust and effective recycling program that keeps recyclable commodities out of our landfills, we have significant challenges with keeping our recyclables in the blue, 15-gallon recycle bins while they are awaiting pickup. The contents of overflowing bins and windblown trash that litter our streets should not be the norm on recycling day in our neighborhoods.

At my request, Bill Ward, Director of Code Enforcement, and Steve Goodkind, Director of the Department of Public Works, created the attached memorandum that succinctly sets forth the problem, challenges, and recommendations and provides a firm foundation for creating a mandatory recycling toters initiative.

Earlier this week, I facilitated a meeting with a number of Burlington landlords, directors Ward and Goodkind, and resolution co-sponsor Councilor Karen Paul during which we had a productive conversation about the logistics of creating and implementing such an initiative.

Councilor Max Tracy's resolution, for your consideration on Monday night's City Council meeting agenda, begins the City's process of taking on the challenge of keeping our streets clean from recycling day debris. The resolution asks our Code Enforcement and Public Works departments to work with City staff and the Chittenden Solid Waste District to develop an initiative, formulated with public input, that makes wheeled, covered recycling toters (either 65 or 95 gallons) mandatory for rental properties with three or more units throughout the City.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider and pass Councilor Tracy's resolution and look forward to working with our City team to craft an impactful initiative for your consideration.

Thank you.

MANDATORY WHEELED COVERED
RECYCLING TOTERS - IMPLEMENTATION

In the year Two Thousand Thirteen.....
Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, one of our goals as a City is to maintain clean neighborhoods, free from litter
whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, there are neighborhoods in the City with the visible nuisance of windblown litter
from poorly organized recyclable materials; and

WHEREAS, the common theme in these neighborhoods is multiple rental units needing greater
capacity for recycling than the standard 15-gallon uncovered recycle bins; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works is charged with the collection and organization of
the recycling program; and

WHEREAS, the Code Enforcement Office is responsible for enforcement of the Minimum
Housing requirements in Chapter 18 of the Burlington Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, both the Department of Public Works and the Code Enforcement Office believe that
requiring owners of rental properties (other than single family or duplexes) in the City to provide
wheeled, covered recycling toters of a minimum of 60 gallons (hereinafter “toters”) for every three units,
or portion thereof, would greatly reduce the level of windblown litter associated with these properties
(properties already containing a dumpster with lid would be exempt); and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works and the Code Enforcement Office also believe that a
phased-in approach of this policy would be the most prudent course of action given the complexity of its
implementation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council requests that the Department of
Public Works and the Code Enforcement Office work with appropriate City staff and, as appropriate, the
Chittenden Solid Waste District, to implement a first phase of this new toters policy that would require
owners of rental properties (other than single family or duplexes) in the City to provide wheeled, covered

MANDATORY WHEELED COVERED
RECYCLING TOTERS - IMPLEMENTATION

recycling toters of a minimum of 60 gallons (hereinafter “toters”) for every three units, or portion thereof (properties already containing a dumpster with lid would be exempt); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council requests that the Department of Public Works and the Code Enforcement Office work with appropriate City staff and, as appropriate, the Chittenden Solid Waste District, to implement second and third phases of this covered, wheeled recycling toters policy to include properties with six or more units and three or more units, respectively; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City staff shall use the initial implementation period for an evaluation of further improvements and report back to the City Council on or before November 1, 2013 with additional timelines and plans for implementation of a mandatory recycling toters initiative for the second and third phases.

Thirteen

HOUSING -
Sanitation

That Chapter 18, Housing, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Burlington be and hereby is amended by amending Sec. 18-105, thereof to read as follows:

Sec. 18-105. - Sanitation.

(a)

Every occupant of a dwelling unit shall dispose of all rubbish, ashes, garbage and other organic waste in a clean and sanitary manner by placing it in approved storage or disposal facilities.

(b)

Every owner or his or her agent of a dwelling unit or units shall provide common storage or disposal facilities for garbage and rubbish. Said common facilities shall be properly sized to eliminate overloading and improper disposal and properly covered and isolated from the general environment so as not to be a public nuisance or hazard and properly maintained. Owners or their agents shall be further responsible for placing out for collection all common garbage and rubbish containers. Owners shall be responsible for providing for and paying the cost of the collection of all refuse on a not less than weekly basis.

(c)

In the case of a single-family house, the occupants are responsible for the provision and proper maintenance of required garbage storage and disposal facilities.

HOUSING - Sanitation

(d)

In addition to the above requirements, owners of rental property with 10 or more units on the property shall provide to the occupants of each unit covered, wheeled recycling containers with a capacity of at least 20 gallons per unit, or an equivalent receptacle that is approved by the director, for the purpose of collecting and properly disposing of the solid waste that is required to be recycled pursuant to chapter 14 of this code of ordinances. The effective date of this subsection shall be October 1, 2013.

* Material underlined added.

lb/emb /c: Ordinances 2013/Housing – Sanitation, Sec. 18-105
7/11/13